

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 31-38, 40-45, 48, 50-52, 55-56 and 60 as follows.

1. - 30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of establishing a communications group in a communications network comprising user equipments the method further comprising:~~

~~sending (2-4, 2-5) a request from one user equipment (UEA) acting as a master equipment to at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) over a communications medium, preferably a short-range communications medium, said request prompting the user of the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) to send user information for group establishment in a the communications network;~~

~~the at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) sending a response (2-8, 2-12) comprising user information for group establishment, over the communications medium to the master user equipment (UEA);~~

~~the master user equipment (UEA) creating or modifying the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC); and~~

~~the master user equipment (UEA) sending the information on the created or modified group to the communications network for establishing said a communications group in the communications network comprising user equipments.~~

32. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing a communications group in a communications network further comprising:

sending ~~(2-4, 2-5)~~ a request from master user equipment (UEA) to at least one slave user equipment ~~(UEB, UEC)~~ over a communications medium, preferably a short-range communications medium, said request prompting the user of the slave user equipment ~~(UEB, UEC)~~ to send user information for group establishment in the communications network;

the at least one slave user equipment ~~(UEB, UEC)~~ sending over the communications medium a response ~~(2-8, 2-12)~~ comprising user information for group establishment to the master user equipment (UEA) for communication in the communication network;

the master user equipment ~~(UEA)~~ creating or modifying the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment ~~(UEB, UEC)~~; and

the master user equipment (UEA) sending the information on the created or modified group to all members of the group over the communications medium.

33. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, wherein at least one of the request and/or the response is one of the following: a multicast request, a point-to-point request, a short message request, an instant message request, an e-mail message request, a multimedia message request, a unified messaging message request, a WAP

{Wireless Application Protocol} message request or an SIP-{Session Initiation Protocol} message request.

34. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, further comprising the master equipment (UEA), in ~~step of~~ creating or modifying the group, checking the response from slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) and if the information of the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) is acceptable, adding the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) to the group.

35. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, wherein the request ~~consists of~~ comprises a file which guides the user of the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) to send only the information needed to establish the group to the master user equipment (UEA).

36. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, wherein the request ~~consists of~~ comprises a file which guides the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) to send only the information needed to establish the group ~~to send~~ to the master user equipment (UEA).

37. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, further comprising retrieving, by ~~wherein~~ the master user equipment, (UEA) ~~retrieves the~~ a file for the

request from at least one of the communications network, ~~and/or~~ from its memory, ~~and/or~~ from the slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~).

38. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, further comprising retrieving, by ~~wherein~~ the master user equipment, (~~UEA~~) ~~creates the a~~ file for the request.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the communications medium is one of the following short-range communications media or networks: a circuit switched network, a packet switched network, a wireless local area network, an IrDA network, a Bluetooth medium or a network according to the IEEE 802.11 standards.

40. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, wherein the communications network is one of the following networks: a digital mobile communications network, a circuit switched network, or a packet switched network, ~~a wireless local area network, an IrDA network, a Bluetooth network or a network according to the IEEE 802.11 standards.~~

41. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, further comprising:

before sending ~~(2-4, 2-5)~~ the ~~multicast~~ request from the master user equipment (UEA) to at least one slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~), selecting by the master user equipment (UEA) ~~selects~~ an identification to be used in the information interchange.

42. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, further comprising sending wherein the request ~~is send~~ by using multicasting.

43. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, further comprising sending wherein the request ~~is send~~ by using broadcasting.

44. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 41, wherein the identification is an Mobile Station Integrated Services Digital Network MSISDN number.

45. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, further comprising sending, by wherein the master user equipment, ~~sends~~ the request automatically when new user equipment enters a predetermined area.

46. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 45, further comprising detecting entrance of a client or new user equipment into the predetermined area, sending the request over the communications medium at least in the proximity of the entrance point.

47. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 45, further comprising sending the request periodically over the communications medium at least in the proximity of the entrance point to the predetermined area.

48. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, further comprising deleting, by ~~wherein~~ the master user equipment, ~~deletes~~ user equipment from a group when the user equipment exits a predetermined area or after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

49. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 48, further comprising detecting exit of a client or user equipment from the predetermined area, sending an identification request over the communications medium at least in the proximity of the exit point,

deleting a group member from the group on the basis of a response to the identification request, if any.

50. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, further comprising sending, by ~~wherein~~ the master user equipment or another device provided with the group information, ~~sends~~ advertisements to the group members over the communications network.

51. (Currently Amended) User equipment comprising a group communications capability, the equipment further comprising:

means for sending ~~(2-4, 2-5)~~ a request to at least one slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~) over a communications medium, preferably a short-range communications medium, said request prompting the user of the slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~) to send user information for group establishment for communication in ~~the~~ a communication network;

means for receiving from at least one slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~) over the communications medium a response ~~(2-8, 2-12)~~ comprising user information for group establishment;

means for creating or modifying the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~); and

means for sending the information on the created or modified group to the communications network for establishing said group.

52. (Currently Amended) User equipment comprising a group communications capability, the equipment further comprising:

means for sending ~~(2-4, 2-5)~~ a request to at least one slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~) over a communications medium prompting the user of the slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~) to send user information for group establishment;

means for receiving from at least one slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~) over the communications medium a response (~~2-8, 2-12~~) comprising user information for group establishment;

means for creating or modifying the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~); and

means for sending the information on the created or modified group to all members of the group via the communications medium.

53. (Previously Presented) User equipment according to claim 51, wherein the communications medium include one of the following short-range communications media or networks: a circuit switched network, a packet switched network, a wireless local area network, an IrDA network, a Bluetooth medium or a network according to the IEEE 802.11 standards.

54. (Previously Presented) User equipment according to claim 51, wherein the communication network is one of the following networks: a digital mobile communications network, a circuit switched network, a packet switched network, a wireless local area network, an IrDA network, a Bluetooth network or a network according to the IEEE 802.11 standards.

55. (Currently Amended) A communications system, comprising:



a mobile communications network,

a plurality of user equipment each including a group communications capability in the mobile communications network, and a transceiver for further communication over a short-range communications medium, further comprising:

at least one user equipment being configured to operate as master user equipment (~~UEA~~) and to send (~~2-4, 2-5~~) a request to at least one slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~) over the short-range communications medium prompting the user of the slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~) to send user information for group establishment in the mobile communications network;

at least one user equipment being configured to operate as slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~) and to send to the master user equipment (~~UEA~~) over the short-range communications medium a response (~~2-8, 2-12~~) comprising user information for group establishment;

the master user equipment (~~UEA~~) being further configured to create or modify the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~); and

the master user equipment (~~UEA~~) being further configured to send the information on the created or modified group to the mobile communications network for establishing said group.

56. (Currently Amended) A communications system, comprising:

a mobile communications network,

a plurality of user equipment each including a group communications capability in the mobile communications network, and a transceiver for further communication over a short-range communications medium, further comprising:

at least one user equipment being configured to operate as master user equipment (UEA) and to send ~~(2-4, 2-5)~~ a request to at least one slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~) over the short-range communications medium prompting the user of the slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~) to send user information for group establishment in the mobile communications network;

at least one user equipment being configured to operate as slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~) and to send to the master user equipment (UEA) over the short-range communications medium a response ~~(2-8, 2-12)~~ comprising user information for group establishment;

the master user equipment (UEA) being further configured to create or modify the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment (~~UEB, UEC~~); and

the master user equipment (UEA) being further configured to send the information on the created or modified group to all members of the group over the short-range communications medium.

57. (Previously Presented) A system according to 55, wherein the short-range communications medium include one of the following short-range communications media or networks: a wireless local area network, an IrDA network, a Bluetooth medium or a network according to the IEEE 802.11 standards.

58. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 55, wherein the master user equipment being configured to send the request automatically when new user equipment enters a predetermined area.

59. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 58, wherein the master user equipment being further configured to delete user equipment from a group when the user equipment exits a predetermined area or a predetermined time has elapsed from entering the member to the group.

60. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 58, further comprising:  
~~means~~ a unit for sending advertisements to the group members over the communications network.